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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,293	11/12/2001	Daniel H. Walker	ITT-485-A	5056

7590

08/28/2002

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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,293

Applicant(s)

WALKER ET AL.

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

It appears that Figures 1-5 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to because they have elements shown in cross section which are not properly crosshatched. Conductive members shown in cross section should be properly crosshatched. See for example the connector housing 12. The conventional crosshatch for conductive members shown in cross section follows.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural limitation, such omission amounting to a gap

between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships is: the conductivity of the connector housing.

In claim 2 line 3, "the quick connector housing bore" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 3 line 2, "the bore" lacks antecedent basis.

In claims 10-13, it appears that "the arm" and "the finger" refer to the same part of the invention. Correction is required.

The scope of claim 15 is indefinite because there is an inconsistency within the claim. Claim 15, initially, indicates that the subcombination, a quick connector (a connector housing), is being claimed. However, later claim 15 contains positive limitations directed toward the male endform, suggesting that applicant intends to claim the combination of the connector housing and the male endform. Applicant is required to clarify what subject matter the claim is intended to be drawn to and the language of the claim must be amended to be consistent with this intent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hand (US 5,648,639).

Hand discloses a fluid quick connector comprising: a connector housing (5) configured to mate with a male endform (1); and an electrically conductive contact

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member (16) mounted in the housing and contacting the male endform to electrically connect the male endform and the quick connector housing. Hand also discloses the contact member comprising a first portion (17) mountable in the quick connector housing bore in contact with the quick connector housing; and at least one arm (18) extending from the first portion for contact with the male endform.

Hand shows the arm extendable through an open end of the bore in the male endform in contact with a surface of the male endform. Please note that "extendable" only requires the ability to so perform, and that the arm of Hand can be bend to extend into the bore.

Hand also shows the arm having a bent end (19). Hand teaches the arm and the bent end comprising a beam portion (base of 18) extending from the first portion of the contact member, a back taper surface (18) extending angularly from the beam portion; and a tip end (19) extending angularly from an edge at one end of the back taper surface and defining a lead-in surface; the back taper surface extends at an obtuse included angle with respect to the beam; and the tip end extends at an obtuse included angle from the back taper surface.

Hand also teaches the first portion of the contact member comprises: an annular ring mountable in the bore in the quick connector housing, the arm extending from the annular ring; the arm having a bent end; the at least one finger extending angularly from the annular ring.

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson (US 4,657,336).

Johnson discloses a connector comprising: a connector housing (68) configured to mate with a male endform; and an electrically conductive contact member (40) mounted in the housing and contacting the male endform to electrically connect the male endform and the connector housing. Johnson also discloses a first portion (42) mountable in the connector housing bore in contact with the connector housing; and at least one arm (48) extending from the first portion. Johnson shows the arm extendable through an open end of the bore in the male endform in contact with a surface of the male endform. Johnson also shows the first portion comprising a tubular body mountable in the bore in the quick connector housing, the arm extending from one end of the tubular body; the tubular body being longitudinally spitted to form spaced edges allowing compression of the tubular body for press-fit mounting of the tubular body in the bore in the quick connector housing; and the tubular body further comprising another end oppositely formed from the one end of the body, a lead-in edge formed on the another end.

Claims 16-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson.

Johnson discloses an electrical contact comprising: an electrically conductive contact member (40) comprising a first portion (42), and an arm (48) extending from the first portion. Johnson also discloses the arm having a bent end (not label); the arm comprising a beam portion (base of 48) extending from the first portion, a back taper surface extending angularly from the beam portion, and a tip end (56) extending angularly from an edge at one end of the back taper surface and defining a lead-in

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surface. Johnson shows the contact member comprising a tubular body being longitudinally split to form spaced edges. Johnson also shows the contact member comprising an annular ring; and at least one finger extending angularly from the annular ring.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Meyer (US 5,131,853) and Rieman (US 4,205,889) disclose contact member with flexible arms. Grooters et al. (US 5,779,278), Gohs (US 3,227,803), Marshall (US 3,891,290) and Tarnay et al. (US 4,655,486) disclose contact members to maintain electrical continuity on conduits.

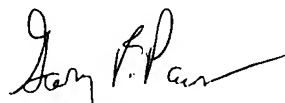
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (703) 308-0097. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

ffr

August 22, 2002



Gary Paumen
Primary Examiner